

#E1-2110
RA

- 1901 22nd Street
- Hondo, TX 78861
- (830) 426-3735

Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society

May 26, 2006

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Section on Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

received
6/6/06

Re: Finance Docket 34284
Vulcan Materials/Southwest Gulf Railroad
Proposed Quarry and Rail Project
Medina County, Texas

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

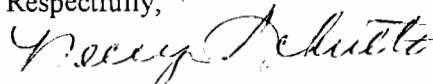
As a consulting party to the application for the permit referenced above, the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society wishes to submit the enclosed information to the Surface Transportation Board.

On February 8, 2006, Quihi was listed by Preservation Texas as one of the Most Endangered Sites in the State of Texas for 2006. Preservation Texas is a non-profit organization founded in 1985, whose mission is to protect the historic resources of Texas. It is a statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and is recognized and supported by the Texas Historical Commission.

Quihi's listing as being the most endangered by Preservation Texas resulted directly from the threat of destruction to the historic Quihi valley by the Vulcan Material's Southwest Gulf Railroad proposal to construct a rail line through this valley. This proposed rail line would destroy the cultural landscape. The proposed rail line would not only ruin the aesthetic value of the historic area by its presence, but would threaten to destroy it by the noise, vibration and enhanced flooding damage secondary to the railroad infrastructure (ie: berms, culverts and trestle-type bridges).

Enclosed with this letter is a booklet about Quihi. Additionally, I am sending a brochure about Preservation Texas. Also enclosed is a copy of Page 8 of Preservation Texas' latest issue of its journal, *Preservation Texas Reporter*. Please review these items and place in the record for consideration in the disposition of Vulcan's SGR application for the permit for the proposed rail line location.

Respectfully,



Necey Schulte, President
The Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society

Encl.

Note: The attached pages contain black and white versions of images that were originally submitted in color. Also, several of the pages were damaged or stuck together during mailing, resulting in some smudges on the pages.

2006 *Texas* Most Endangered List



Join us in saving
Texas' most endangered places.
www.PreservationTexas.org

Our Mission

Preservation Texas, Inc. is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to protect the historic resources of Texas.

Founded in 1985, named a Statewide

Partner of the National Trust for Historic

Preservation in 1998, Preservation Texas is

a leader in advocacy for the preservation of

Texas' historic places. With headquarters in

Austin, more than 600 individual and more

than 90 organizational members,

Preservation Texas represents more than

16,000 Texans as their statewide voice for

historic preservation.



Mueller Bridge

La Vernia, Wilson County

The Mueller Bridge is one of two multi-span Warren polygonal chord bridges in the state. The 252 foot metal truss bridge with wooden floor was completed in 1915 and is located in Wilson County, two miles east of La Vernia.

John McAlister bought several hundred acres of farmland in the early 1850s adjacent to Cibolo Creek. The natural stream crossing, an old Indian trail, adjacent to his property became known as "McAlister Crossing". Henry Mueller, a blacksmith, purchased land on the east side in 1906, giving the future bridge its name. Serving residents for over 70 years, the bridge was closed to traffic in 1988. The abutment on the northeast end of the bridge is cracked and serious erosion problems have developed causing the northeast corner of the embankment to slough off leaving the corner dangling in mid-air. Several holes have developed in the flooring of the bridge.

Village of Quihi

Medina County

The village of Quihi lies thirty miles west of San Antonio. Ancient Indian tribes named the area for the Mexican eagle and camped around Quihi Lake because of the abundant game there. They left campsites with artifacts carbon-dated thousands of years old. In 1846 ten families came to Quihi Lake by oxcart from the Indianola seaport and established farms and homes. Many of the current 200 residents in this picturesque settlement are descendants of those original settlers. Quihi is threatened today by noise pollution and the deterioration to its sense of place because an aggregate company is planning a 50-year project to mine 200 million tons of crushed limestone near Quihi. Hundreds of 78,000 pound trucks and a 7-mile railroad with 400 railcars would travel through the Quihi area daily, posing serious risk to the structure and stability of the buildings.



Winfield Hangar

Fort Stockton, Pecos County

The adobe Winfield Hangar was constructed in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration and Pecos County. Winfield Airport was used as an auxiliary field to Gibbs Field during World War II, a primary training base. State Senator H. L. Winfield was a champion for the creation of Big Bend National Park. This airport was elite in its time, being the first in the area. It transported people and cargo from Texas to all parts of the country and was on the old Chihuahua Road. The now vacant adobe Winfield Hangar is threatened due to neglect and damage from the elements.



Herring Hotel

Amarillo, Potter County

The Herring Hotel was one of three oil-boom era hotels built in the 1920s, and is now the only one standing. It was home to the Old Tascosa Room where cattle and oil barons gathered to discuss business and unwind. It featured western frescoes painted by muralist H.D. Bugbee. Only one of the frescoes is intact after a water main flooded the basement. The hotel's 14 stories and 600 rooms made it the largest of the 1920s era hotels. Its builder, Cornelius Taylor Herring, was a pioneer cattleman, oilman and banker. He owned 98,000 acres of the LS Ranch north of Amarillo. The Hotel was converted into federal office space in the early 1970s, but was soon abandoned. The site is vulnerable to vandals and damage from the elements.

Texas Most Co.

El Paso and Southwestern Railroad and Freight Depot

El Paso, El Paso County



This 1903 Italianate terminal, designed by Daniel H. Burnham and built by the Phelps-Dodge Company, allowed merchants to load, unload or store freight shipped on the El Paso & Southwestern Railroad. Not only is this building listed as a local historic landmark for its historical significance, but its nationally known architect designed Washington DC's Union Station and the El Paso Union Depot. The windows are covered with plywood to discourage vandalism but the building is threatened by neglect and the misdirected preservation efforts of previous owners.

Historic Texas Cemeteries

All Texas Counties

Cemeteries are among the most valuable of historic resources. They are reminders of various settlement patterns and reveal information about historic events, religion, lifestyles and genealogy. Unfortunately, historic cemeteries do not necessarily remain permanent reminders of our heritage. They are subject to deterioration from weathering and erosion, uncontrolled vegetation, development pressures, vandalism, theft and neglect. The loss of gravestones, fencing and other funeral objects has occurred to some extent in almost every cemetery in the state, and in places even the loss of whole cemeteries has been tolerated, sanctioned or gone unnoticed. The need for a comprehensive approach to cemetery preservation presents an enormous challenge to our state and is underscored by the fact that over 90% of property in Texas is in private ownership.



Wilshire Village Apartments

Houston, Harris County

The Wilshire Village Apartment complex is the only remaining development of three original Federal Housing Administration-insured sites, the largest undertaking of its kind approved by the FHA in the South. Finished in 1940, the garden apartment complex had 144 apartments of varying sizes in two-story, fireproof buildings on nine acres - in the Montrose area. Architect Eugene Werlin created the "modern" look with brushed aluminum banisters, glass blocks and projecting window bays. After many years, maintenance became the responsibility of the individual tenants, not the owner. As a result, not all apartments are well maintained and the building exteriors appear derelict. The complex is located in the midst of several historic subdivisions. In 2005, the property sold to a developer who announced preliminary plans to erect two 16-18 story residential towers on the site. This plan threatens the character of the adjacent neighborhoods, and the mature oaks and magnolias that were planted on the site 65 years ago.



Eastern Star Home

Arlington,
Tarrant County

This grand facility, built in 1924 at a cost of \$212,000, was constructed to provide a home for aged and infirmed members of the Eastern Star in Texas. The charge to build included a provision to be near a public school "so children who might come to live in the home could be educated without undue expense."

Additions to the building in 1931, 1954 and 1966, provided a new kitchen, an enlarged dining room, a new east wing and a hospital unit. A local developer envisions a 300-room hotel and apartments at the former retirement center, and Arlington City officials plan to turn a large portion of the 30 acres into a parking lot for the new Dallas Cowboys' football stadium.



Grota Homestead Neighborhood

Houston, Harris County



Grota Homestead, located near the late 19th century community known as Germantown just northwest of downtown Houston, was the beginning of Grota Homestead Neighborhood. Platted first for residential development in the 1890s, subsequent plats were added through 1920. Primarily a working and middle class neighborhood, Grota Homestead is an integral component of the early 20th century suburban development. After World War II suburban development sent the area into a slow economic decline

and construction of I-45/North Freeway in the 1960s resulted in the demolition of many homes, severing the area's connections to historic neighborhoods to the east. The neighborhood is National Register eligible as a locally significant historic district but is threatened by development pressures. The Texas Department of Transportation's proposed widening of I-45 on the east side of the neighborhood is the threat. The project would displace residents, hamper revitalization efforts and result in the demolition of many significant historic buildings.



John S. Harrison House

Selma, Bexar County

This National Register-eligible, one-story house was built in 1852 with a detailed full porch added in 1905. The house is located on a 12-acre site along Cibola Creek. John Harrison and his wife lived in the house for two years while John served as the first postmaster for Selma. The house is one of only two remaining original structures in Selma. The house is owned by the City but is currently vacant and threatened by vandalism and further deterioration.



The Berry Brown House

Wichita Falls,
Wichita County

In 1892, this two-story Victorian-style redwood house was built. It is believed to have been ordered from the Montgomery Ward catalog. The house got its name from one of its owners, a well-respected City Alderman in the late 1940s. The house, a Wichita Falls Landmark, sits on a lot lined with the original iron picket fencing. The building is endangered due to neglect, vandalism and potential arson.

Endangered



Neighborhood Protection: Historically and Architecturally Significant Neighborhoods of Texas Cities

Neighborhood residents have worked for decades to protect and nurture the slow, incremental revitalization of many historic and architecturally significant neighborhoods throughout Texas. Now some of these places are facing a new threat—a disturbing new pattern of demolition as newcomers move in on their own terms. New owners and developers are demolishing existing homes in these neighborhoods to make way for the construction of dramatically larger new homes.

Typically measuring 3,000 to 10,000-square feet, these new structures overwhelm neighboring homes and threaten the very qualities that make historic neighborhoods attractive in the first place. Character and charm are replaced by boxy new mansions. Neighborhood livability is diminished as mature trees, landscaping and backyards are eliminated. Community and economic social diversity is reduced as affordable homes are destroyed. Immediate action is needed to protect the character of these historic and architecturally important neighborhoods.

Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railroad Depot

Roaring Springs, Motley County

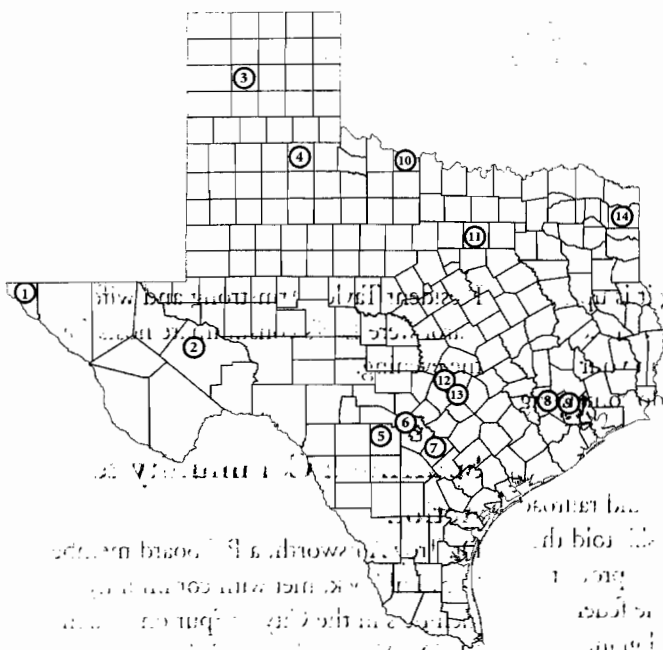
This charming depot, constructed in 1913, was, and still is the focal point of Roaring Springs. It is an example of many good historic buildings in Texas that suffer from a lack of funds for restoration. After the railroad abandoned the line, community groups used it as a meeting place and a depository for town and school memorabilia. The now vacant building needs repairs to keep out the weather that is causing damage to the interior. Supporters are in the process of raising funds and want to see their depot used again; this time to house the City Hall. They have chosen an architect and have obtained a grant for the project, but need to raise \$300,000 in matching funds to get the grant.



Atlanta Miller Grade School

Atlanta, Cass County

The Atlanta Miller Grade School was a Works Progress Administration project taking 120 days to complete. Hardy Brothers of Texarkana began construction of the one-story, six-room building of locally made brick in 1936. As the community grew, rooms were added over the years. Between 1975 and 1980, the Miller Grade School became the Atlanta Multi-Purpose Center and was put to good use until 1990. From 1990 to 2000, the school was used as a storehouse, receiving no maintenance. Water damage and neglect to regular maintenance threatens this school building. Many Atlanta Miller Grade School former students and supporters have incorporated into a 501 c 3 and launched the first phase of alumni fundraising in cities around Texas, and have made emergency repairs to prevent additional water infiltration and damage.



Legend for Most Endangered Places by County

1. **El Paso and Southwestern Railroad and Freight Depot**
El Paso County
2. **Winfield Hangar**
Pecos County
3. **Herring Hotel**
Potter County
4. **The Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railroad Depot**
Motley County
5. **Village of Quihi**
Medina County
6. **John S. Harrison House**
Bexar County
7. **Mueller Bridge**
Wilson County
8. **Grota Homestead**
Neighborhood
Harris County
9. **Wilshire Village Apartments**
Harris County
10. **The Berry Brown House**
Wichita County
11. **Eastern Star Home**
Tarrant County
12. **Historic Texas Cemeteries**
All Texas Counties
13. **Neighborhood Protection**
All Texas Towns and Cities
14. **Atlanta Miller Grade School**
Cass County

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Executive Director

Julianne Fletcher

Resources

Texas Association of Counties
www.county.org

Texas Historical Commission
www.thc.state.tx.us

Texas Historical Foundation
www.texashist.org

Texas Legislature Online
www.capitol.state.tx.us

Texas Society of Architects
www.texasarchitects.org

State Preservation Board
www.tspb.state.tx.us

Texas State Library and Archives
Commission
www.tsl.state.tx.us

Benefits

Statewide Press Conference
Media Releases for Endangered
Sites
Resources for preservation
planning
Exposure at statewide
preservation events
Letters of support for fund raising

The Program

The purpose of this listing is to save historic structures by building public awareness, mobilizing community resources, and finding potential buyers or investors.

Preservation Texas needs your help in identifying eligible candidates in your community. A wide range of sites will be considered – commercial and residential structures, public buildings, religious structures, neighborhoods, bridges, monuments, ranches and parks. We will accept applications for the 2007 Most Endangered Places List until October 15, 2006, and the selected properties will be announced in February 2007. The project can play a vital role in preserving the rich character, identity and heritage of our communities – but we need your help!

Thank You

The Board of Directors and staff of Preservation Texas would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the individuals and organizations throughout Texas who nominated sites to the 2006 Most Endangered List. Thank you also to the dedicated volunteers who donated their time and talent to the selection process for this year's list. Our members and volunteers enable our organization to serve as a strong voice for preservation in Texas.

We also express our appreciation to our partners, the Texas Historical Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for their guidance and financial support.

**Preservation Texas' Most Endangered Places Program is
underwritten by generous grants from the Dodge Jones Foundation
and the Texas Historical Commission.**

**PRESERVATION
TEXAS**

P.O. Box 12832
Austin, Texas 78711 512-472-0102
www.preservationtexas.org

Preservation Site Visits

Preservation Texas board and staff regularly travel to the Texas communities of members and supporters, informing them about preservation issues and concerns in their area. (To request a Preservation Site Visit, we invite you to contact info@preservation-texas.org or (512) 472-0102).

Village of Quihi, Medina County

A large delegation from Quihi attended the Preservation Texas press conference on the Capitol steps February 8. The twelve traveled to Austin to demonstrate their support for the Most Endangered designation, to show PT members how much the historic community means to them, and to thank PT for giving them an opportunity to tell their story. The delegates invited Executive Director Julianne Fletcher to speak at an upcoming public hearing.

On February 16, an overflow crowd packed the public meeting before Medina County Commissioners Court in Hondo. County Judge Jim Barden listened as locals, neighbors, attorneys and the Vulcan Material's Company made arguments for and against the company's controversial proposals. More than two-thirds of the speakers opposed Vulcan's 6-year plans to build a seven-mile railroad through historic Quihi and its flood plain. The railroad is intended to serve the new 1,760 acre quarry Vulcan plans north of the village.

Among the 22 speaking against the project, PT's Julianne Fletcher asked commissioners and others in attendance to consider the rich historic landscape and the wonderful story of how Quihi came to be. "It is unlike anywhere else," she said. Fletcher asked them to consider what

resources are at stake, saying it is up to people at the grassroots level to take action. "If you don't want it in your backyard, it is up to you to do something about it."

A consultant hired by quarry and railroad opponents, Brian Pietruszewski, told the Commissioners that they must protect the region's interests before the federal Surface Transportation Board grants Vulcan's request. Vulcan is seeking a federal permit for the railroad to obtain a liability shield covering harm resulting from the project and barring lawsuits against the company or the federal government. Pietruszewski said the company's request for a railroad permit is an attempt to preempt state and local laws.

Read more about the village of Quihi at www.preservationtexas.org

Park Cities

Preservation Texas Development Director Lori Martin recently spoke to the Park Cities Historical Society at their quarterly meeting. Attendees enjoyed viewing PT's courthouse video and sharing stories and interesting facts about many of Texas' majestic county courthouses. PCHS member Lindalyn

Adams reported on the progress of the Old Red Museum, formerly the Dallas County Courthouse. Park Cities resident Kate Harris gave Lori a tour of the community and PCHS

President Taylor Armstrong and wife Carol were Lori's consummate hosts for the evening.

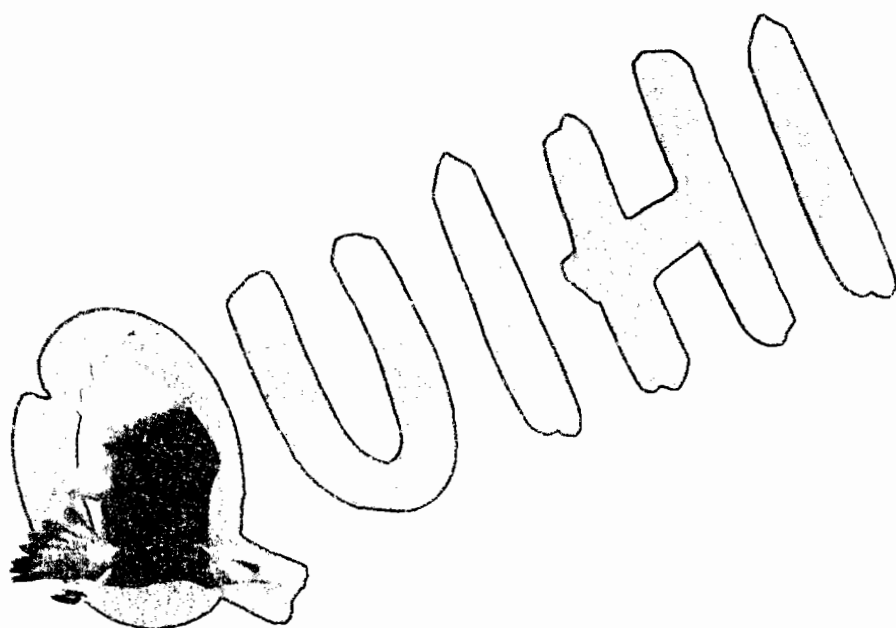
Spurring a Community to Action

Dr. Troy Ainsworth, a PT board member from Lubbock, met with community members in the City of Spur on March 21. Dr. Ainsworth toured three historic buildings during his visit to Dickens County. Spur Main Street Manager Joyce Howze writes, "With encouragement from people like Troy Ainsworth, we can see beyond the limitations we face now and unite to preserve what we have... Dr. Ainsworth's visit encouraged the community to work together, start small and plan what task needs to be done first with the resources we have at hand."

La Vernia, Wilson County



Pictured during a visit to Mueller Bridge in La Vernia (from left), PT Executive Director Julianne Fletcher; Kitty Henderson, The Historic Bridge Foundation; Adrienne Campbell, Texas Historical Commission and Lee Ann Hosek, Emergency Management Coordinator for Wilson County. Read more about the visit to this 2006 Texas Most Endangered Place on page two.



TOYNO OF
QUITI

SURVEYED IN OCTOBER 1844
BY

HENRI CASTRO
1781 - 1861

DISTINGUISHED PIONEER AND COLONIZER
OF TEXAS

ESTABLISHED IN MARCH 1845 BY TEN
FAMILIES IN CHARGE OF LANDS TITLED
GRANT FOR CASTRO

MANY FAMILIES WERE KILLED AND
MANY OTHERS WERE KILLED

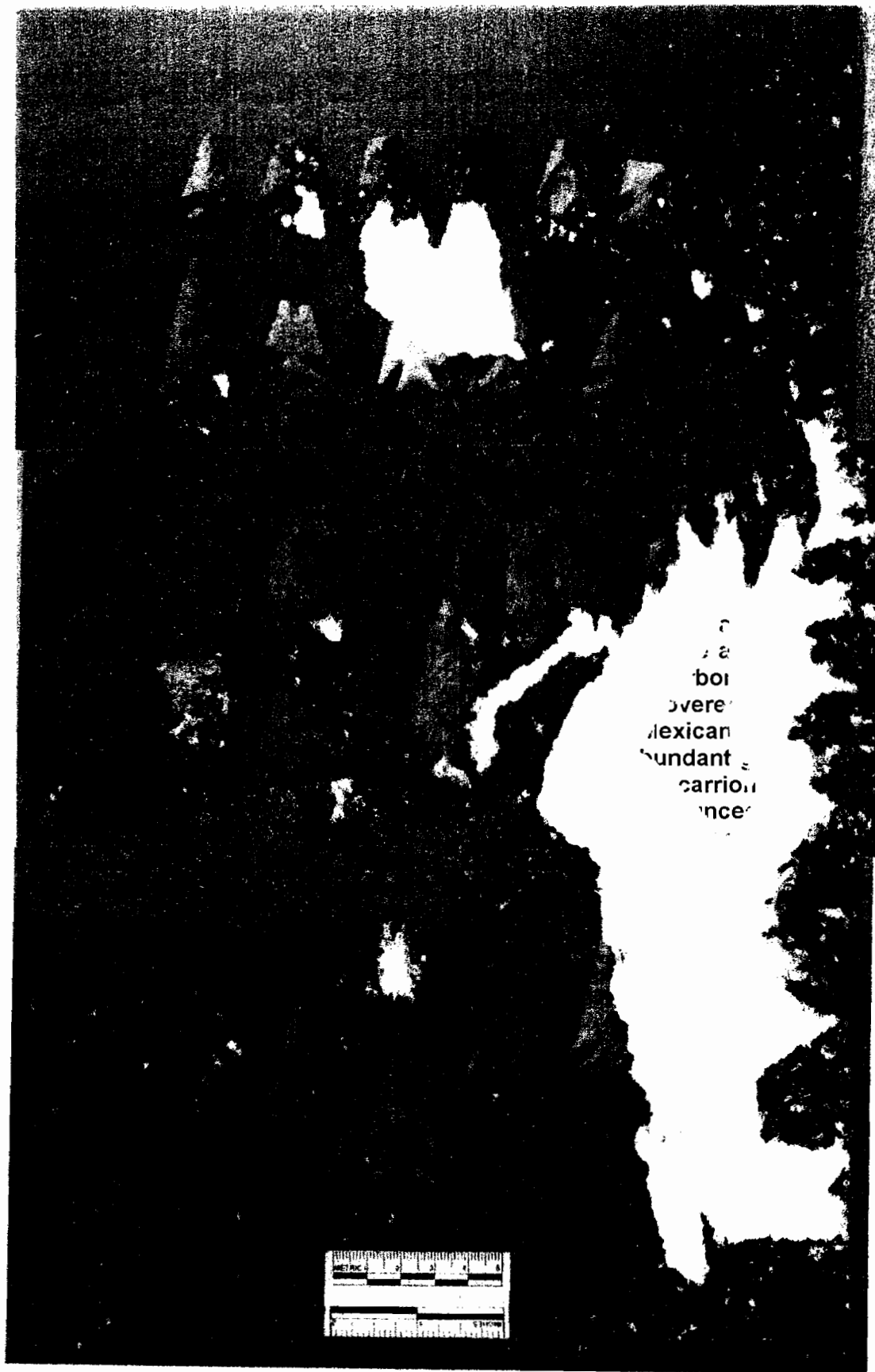


**QUIHI (Kwee-Hee) TEXAS,
A FORGOTTEN HISTORICAL TREASURE**

By Alyne Fitzgerald, Quihi Resident

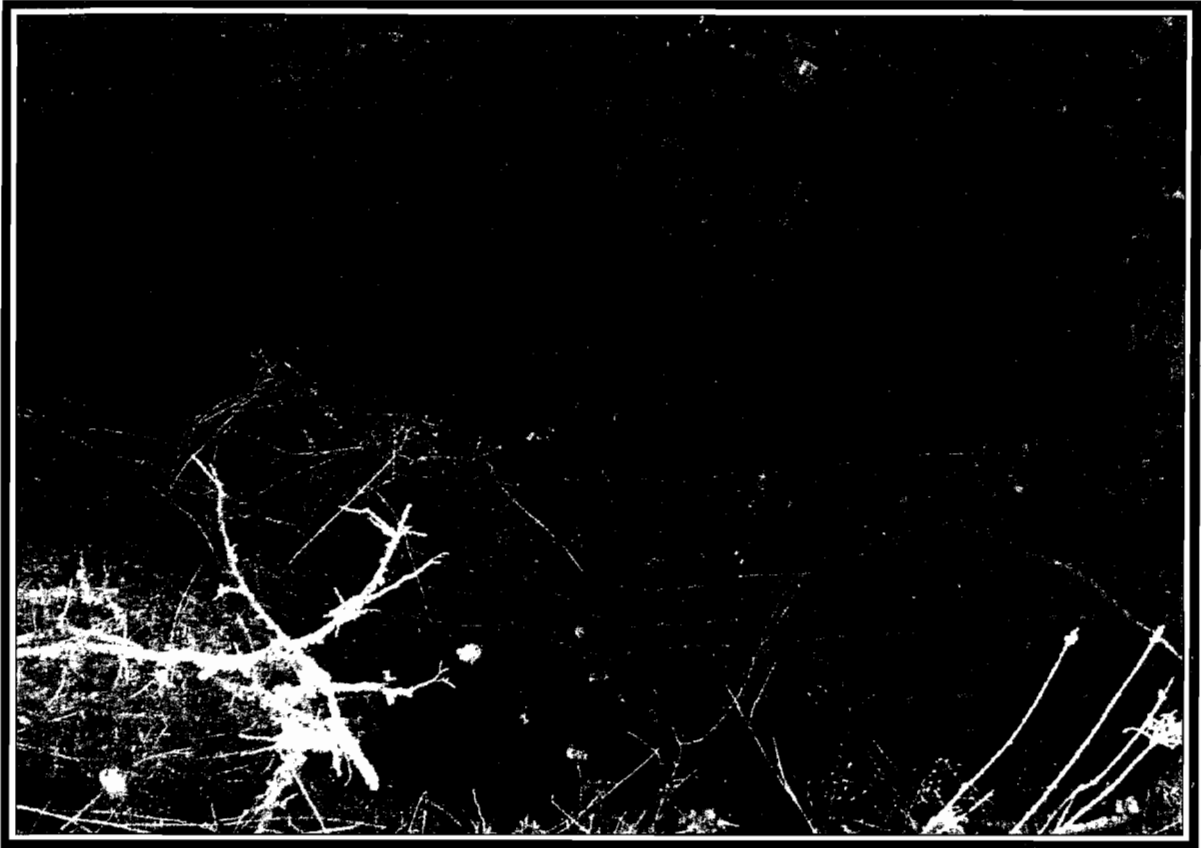
Thirty miles west of that famous shrine to freedom, the Alamo in San Antonio, lies the village of Quihi, in central Medina County. Quihi's story begins long before Texas won its freedom from Mexico in 1836.

Ancient indian tribes roamed the area, with its artesian springs in the Quihi Creek bed and abundant game at Quihi Lake. They left campsites with artifacts carbon-dated thousands of years old, now being discovered and documented. They named this place after the Mexican eagle, a vulture proliferating at the lake because of abundant game. Reportedly, they revered this bird, because it ate carrion and did not become ill. (Later, the white man pronounced the word as 'Quihi'.) Scholars say the indians buried their dead in the deep sinkholes in the area's limestone. Several sinkholes are north of Quihi Lake.



INDIAN ARTIFACTS FOUND AT QUIHI

Sinkhole north of Quihi



In the 1830's, Santa Anna's Mexican army traveled to San Antonio through Quihi, (General Wall's Road). Mostly obliterated elsewhere, some of this road remains here.

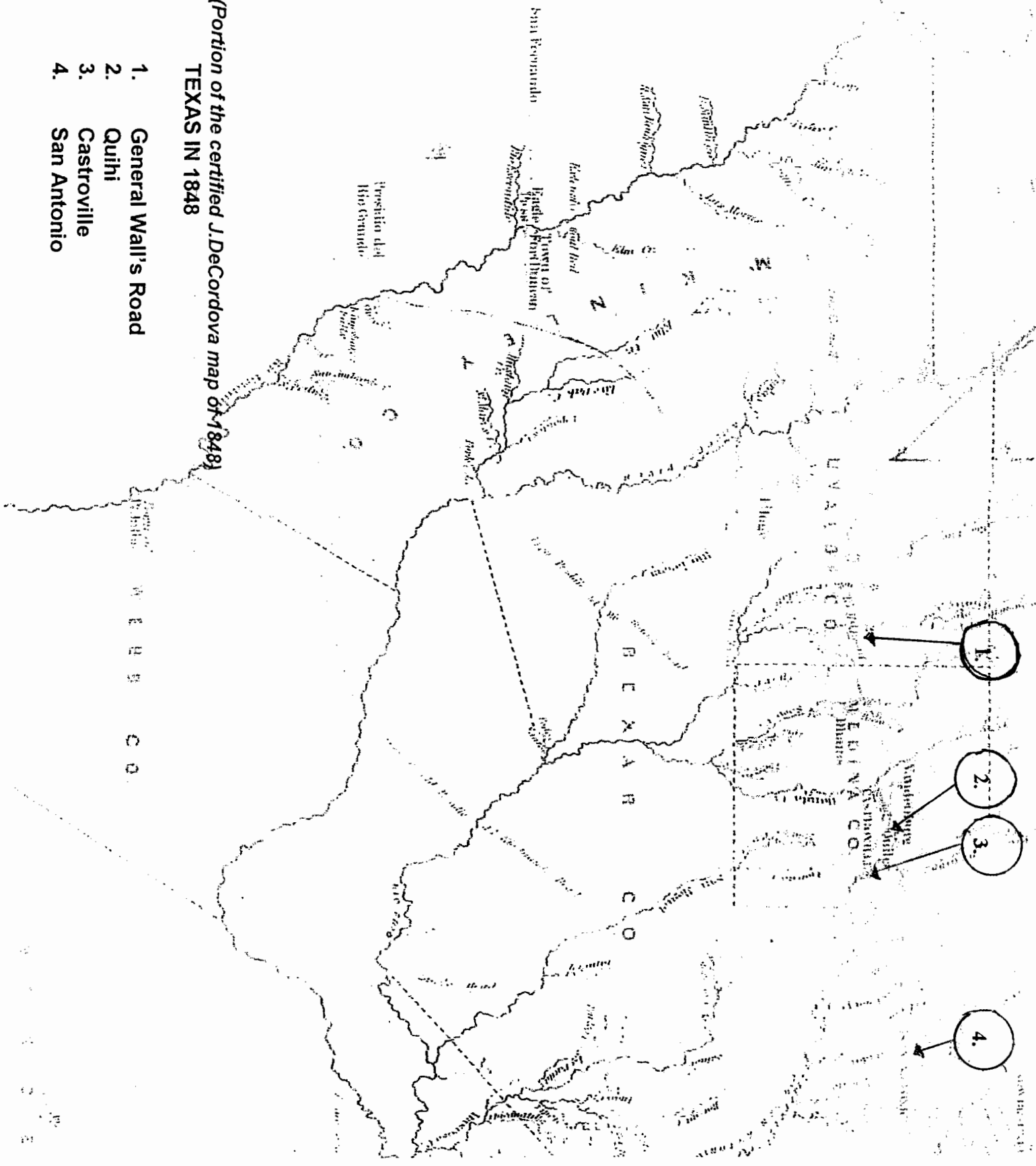
After Santa Anna's defeat, the new Republic of Texas offered huge land grants to influential persons (empresarios), who recruited settlers to protect the land from reclamation by Mexico and produce revenue.

Thus Henri Castro came to Texas from France. Obtained in 1842, his grant included Quihi Lake, perfect for his first colony, he thought. Because protection from indians was not yet available, he purchased land closer to San Antonio for his first colony of French-Alsatians: Castroville, 10 miles east of Quihi. (In 2004, First Lady Laura Bush presented to Castroville the nation's first *Preserve America* designation.)

1848

(Portion of the certified J DeCordova map of 1848)
TEXAS IN 1848

1. General Wall's Road
2. Quihi
3. Castroville
4. San Antonio





General Wall's Road (CR 4516) at Quihi, looking east

General Wall's Road at Quihi, looking west at junction of CR 365



Quihi would be an outpost and buffer against the indians. In 1846, ten brave families, mostly German, came to Quihi Lake by oxcart from the Indianola seaport, through San Antonio and Castroville, walking much of the way.

They did not know who or what indians were, and could not shoot a gun. They depended upon others to hunt game. To learn to shoot, they organized a gun club, which still exists.

By day, they would establish farms and build their first homes of wood stakes with grass roofs. At night, they gathered at the lake behind huge piles of brush placed for protection from the indians.

Later, they built sturdy limestone cottages in the European style, with their distinctive graceful roofs. Many remain. There are over 70 historical and archeological sites.

These settlers suffered indian massacres, drought, and disease. Early church records show 50% of the children born did not live past age 5.



**Marker erected at site of encampment
of first settlers at Quihi Lake.**



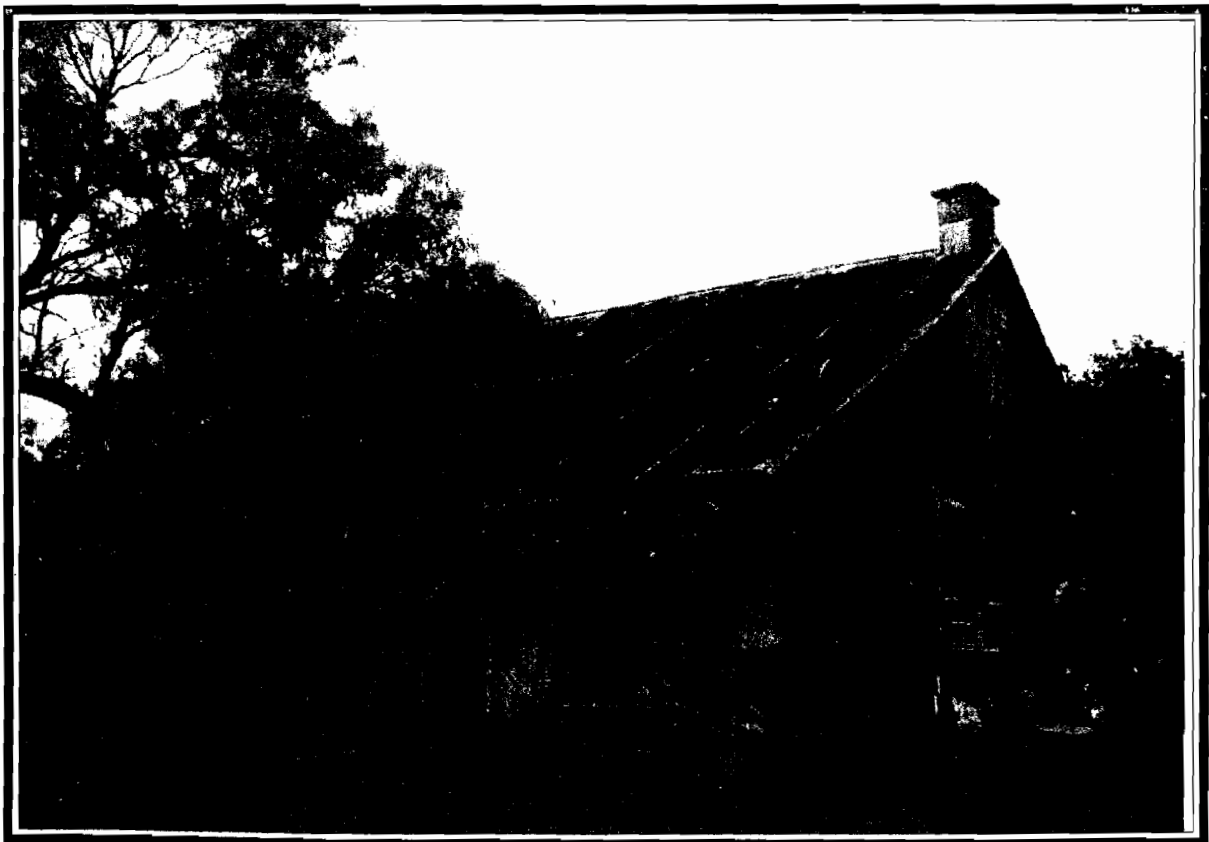


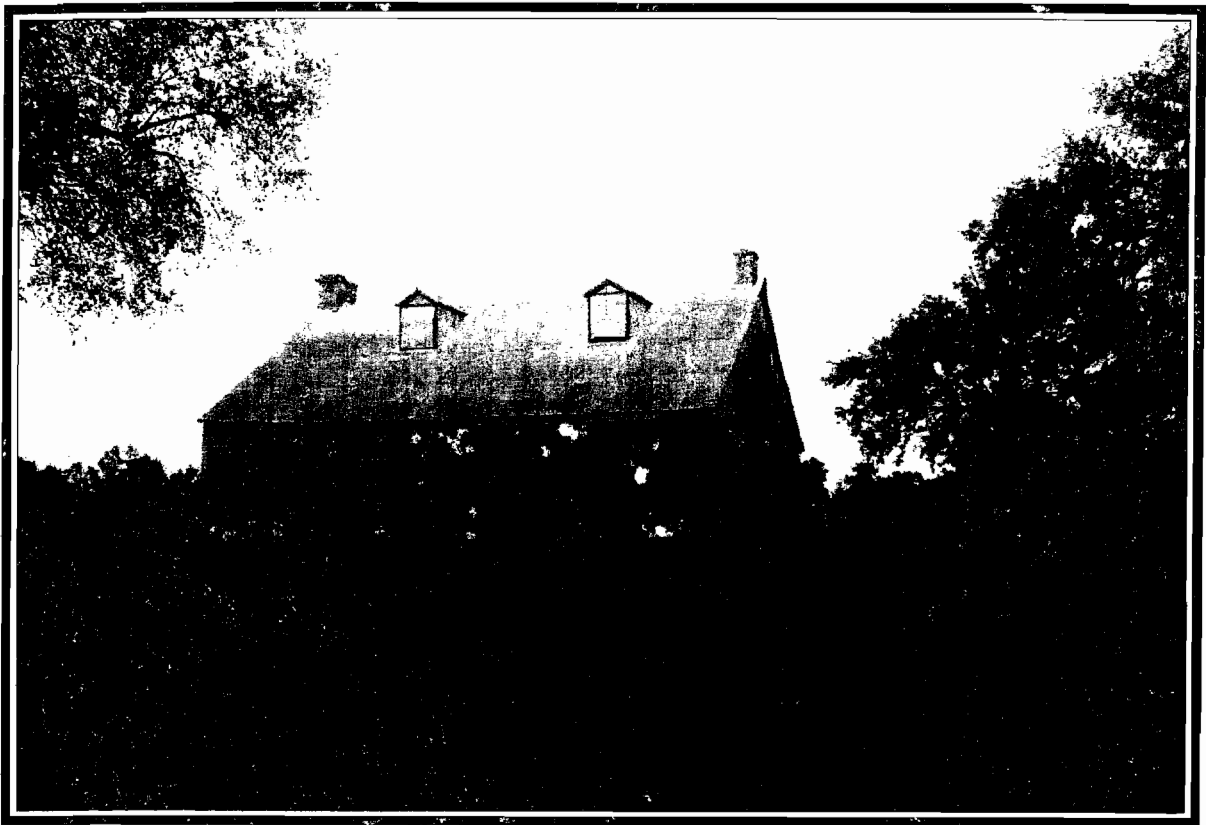
Quihi Gun Club (Schuetzen Verein) - on the banks of Quihi Creek, south of Quihi Lake



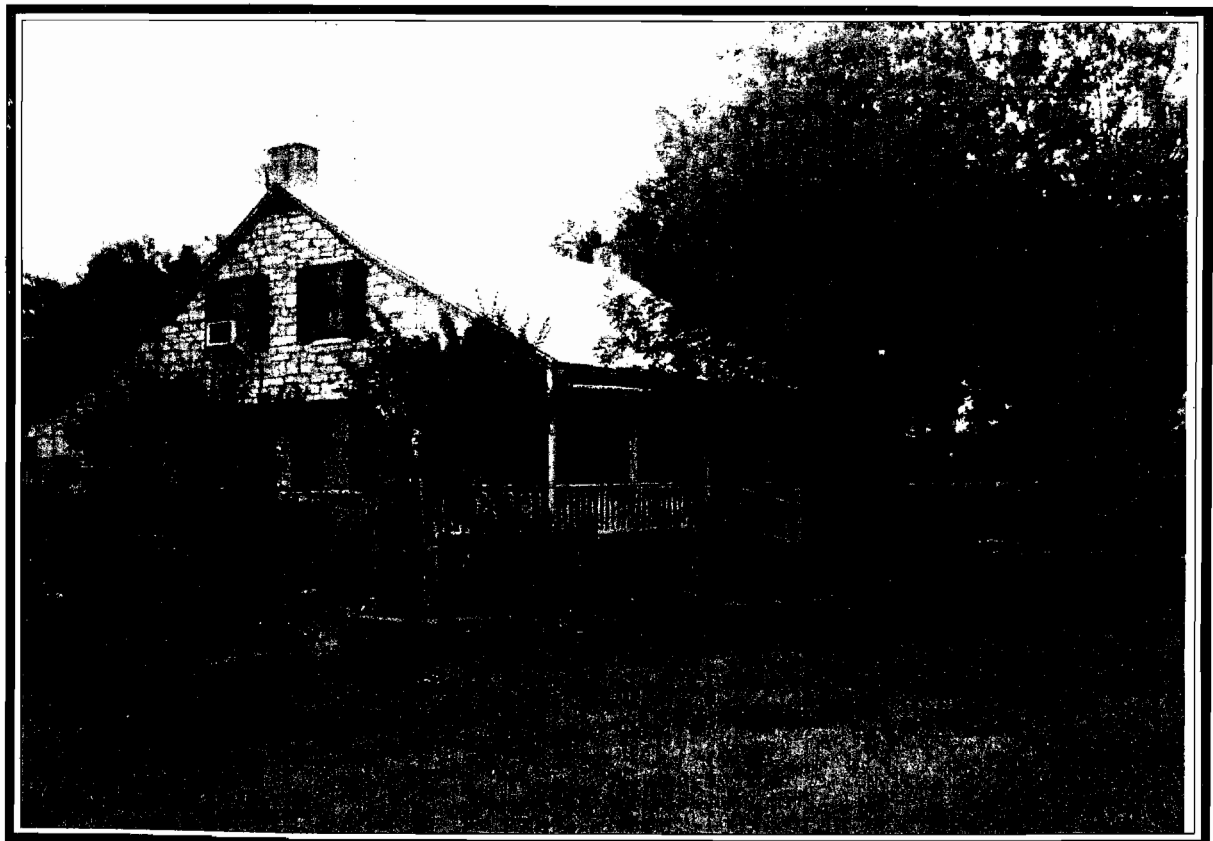


**Limestone homes at Quihi built by the early settlers in the German/Alsatian style
(Above home presently being restored)**





Limestone homes at Quihi built by the early settlers in the German/Alsatian style

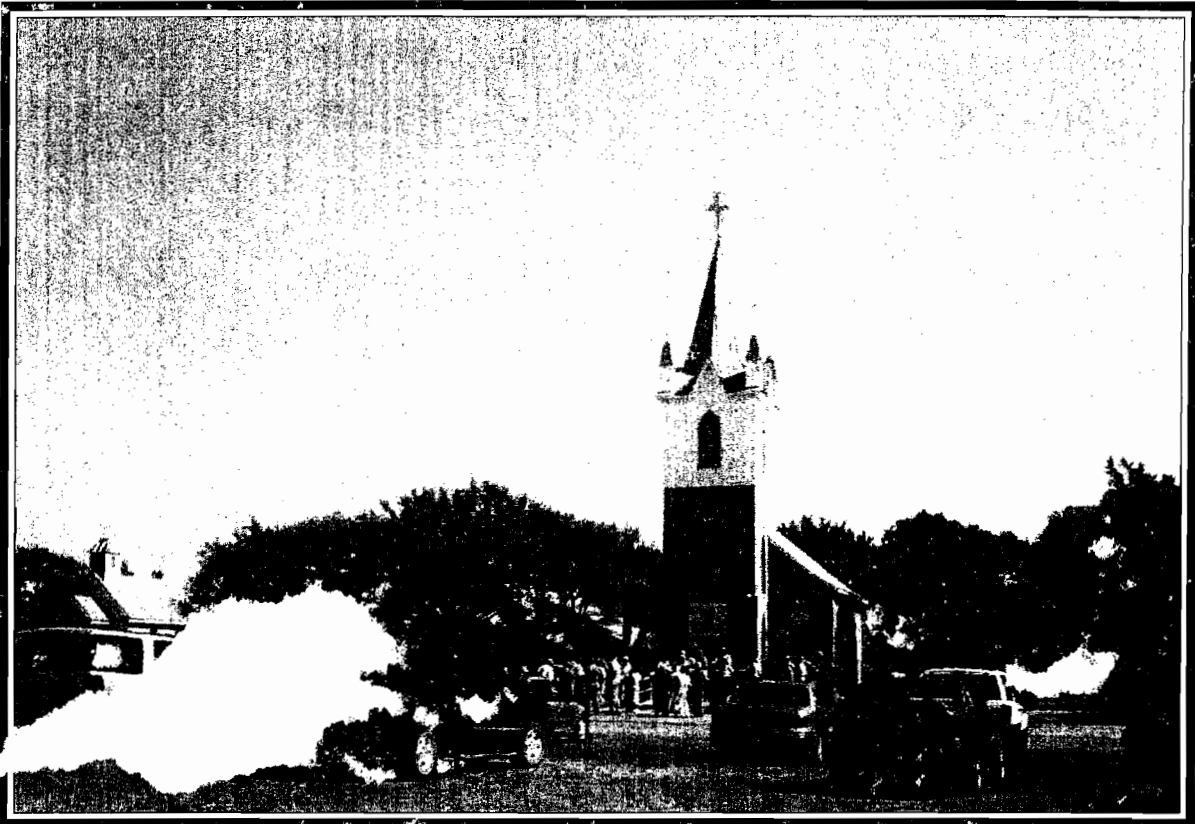


Today Quihi is a quiet, picturesque village of approximately 200 people. Many are descendants of those original settlers. They gather at the church to worship, celebrate and share family stories and traditions.

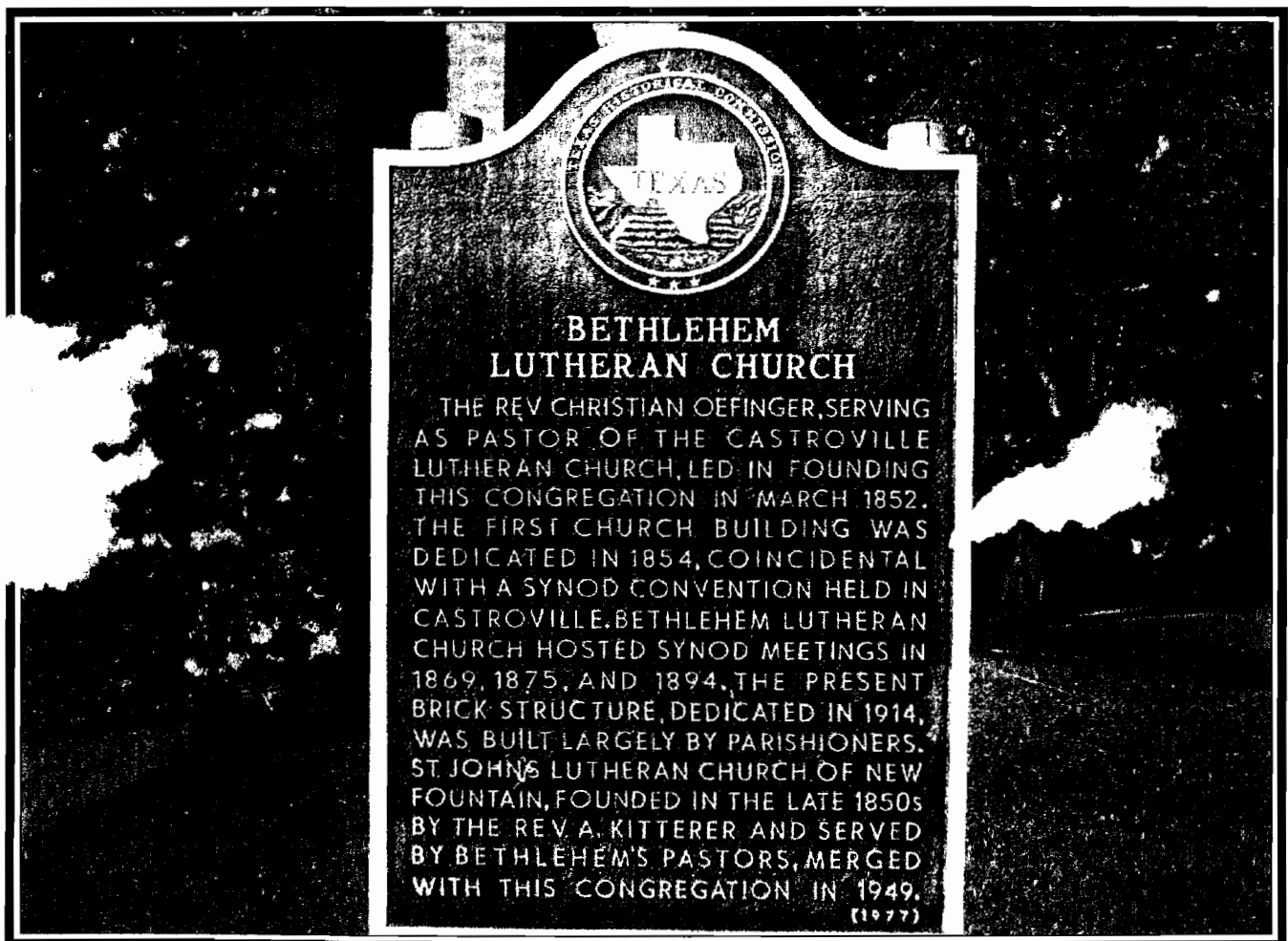
(Note: Quihi faces a new threat. An aggregate company, Vulcan Materials, Inc., is planning a 50-year project to mine 200 million tons of crushed limestone on 1760 acres, north of Quihi. This would be the largest quarry in Texas. Hundreds of 78,000 lb. trucks and a 7-mile railroad with 400 railcars would travel through the Quihi area daily. It would divide the historic district and historic heritage farms. It would change the future land use of the area from historic/agricultural/residential to industrial/commercial use. Unable to purchase all the easements needed for their rail line from unwilling area ranchers, Vulcan has stated they would use the eminent domain powers of their railroad company to take the needed land by condemnation. This community is racing against time to preserve their heritage.)

Printed 02-01-2006

Alyne Fitzgerald
202 CR 450
Hondo, TX 78861



The people of Quihi worship at the historic Bethlehem Lutheran Church (est. 1854)

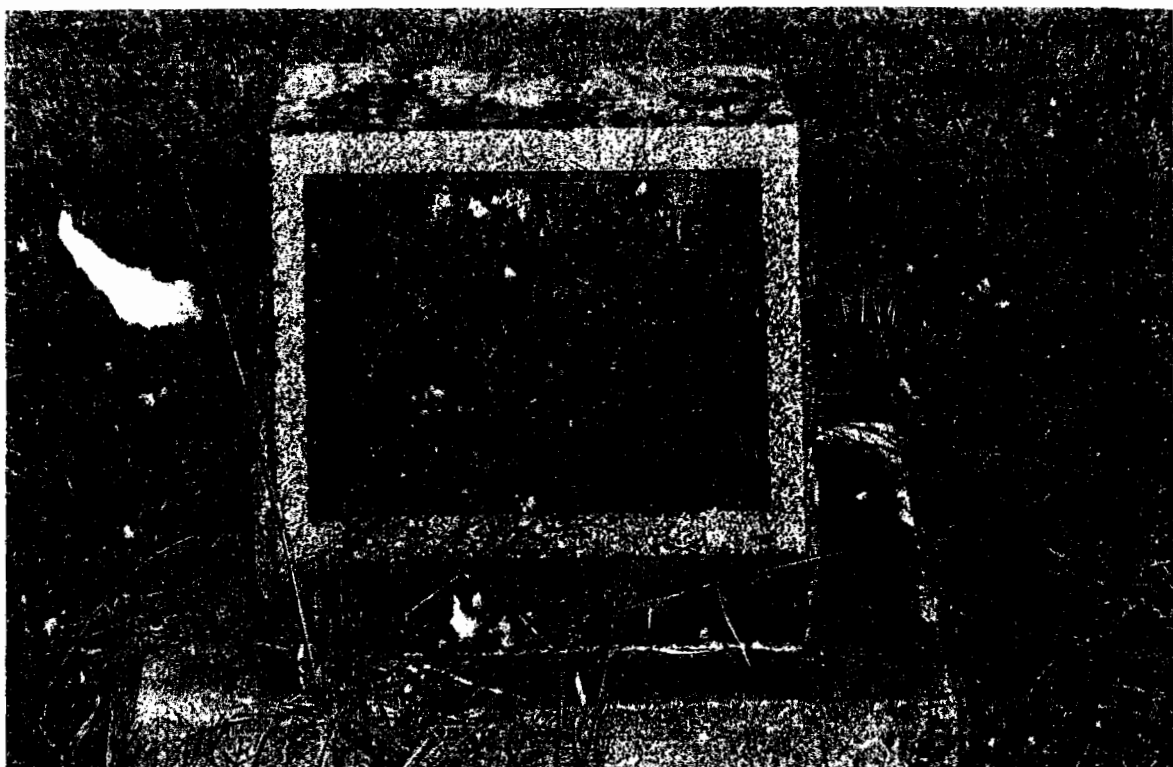


Free inhabitants in the Town of Quihi in the County of Medina, State of Texas
enumerated by me on the 11 date of October, 1850.

Henry K. Judd, Asst. Marshal

Dwelling	Family	NAME	Age	Sex	Color	OCCUPATION	Value	PLACE OF BIRTH	10	11	12	13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
1	1	Reden, John	40	M		Farmer	100	Germany				
		Dorothy	29	F				Germany				
		John	7	M				Texas				
		Francis	6	M				Texas				
		Catherine	3	F				Texas				
		Louisa	1½	F				Texas				
2	2	Reff, Jacob	39	M		Farmer	100	Germany				
		Catherine	30	F				Germany				
		Joseph	3	M				Texas				
		Mary Ann	2	F				Texas				
		Hitmann, Diettrich	33	M		Farmer	200	Germany				
		Gertrude	36	F	F			Germany				
		Mary	16	F				Germany				
		Lesberg, Catherine	15	F				Germany				
		Gertrude	12	F				Germany				
		John	8	M				Germany				
		Ludwig	7	M				Germany				
		Elizabeth	7	M				Germany				
		Hilman, Ann	1½	F				Texas				
4	4	Sortoff, John	27	M		Farmer		Germany				
		Mijah	28	F				Germany				
		Focken, Frederick	6	M				Germany				
		Hannah	4	F				Germany				
		Johanah	3	F				Germany				
5	5	Briten, John	32	M		Stone Mason	150	Germany				
		Hannah	36	F				Germany				
		Karters, Henry	9	M				Germany				
		Ann	4	F				Texas				
		Briten, Joseph	1½	M				Texas				
6	6	Brown, James H.	33	M		Ranger Vol. comp.		Virginia				
		Teresa	22	F				Germany				
		James	2	M				Texas				
		Sarah J.	1/12	F				Texas				

Dwelling	Family	NAME	Age	Sex	Color	OCCUPATION	Value	PLACE OF BIRTH					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
7	7	Schorobena, Redolph	33	M		Farmer		Hungary					
		Francisca	25	F				France					
8	8	Soodhoff, Folkart	30	M		Blacksmith		Germany		M			
		Agatha	28	F				Germany	8	M			
9	9	Schmidt, J. B.	46	M		Farmer	100	Germany					
		Elizabeth	46	F				Germany					
		Laurence	26	M		Clerk		Germany					
		Margi, Rami	14	M				Germany					
10	10	Reitzer, Ambrose	46	M		Laborer		Germany					
		Margaret	42	F				Germany					
		Joseph	13	M				Germany					
		John	11	M				Germany					
		August	7	M				Germany					
		Josephine	6/12	F				Texas					
11	11	Trivinio, Augustine	37	M		Laborer		Mexico			U		
		Gertrude	30	F				Germany					
		Brooks, Henry	12	M				Germany					
12	12	Bohle, Louis	40	M		Farmer		Germany					
		Bater	25	F				Germany					
		Frederich	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	M				Texas					
		Schmidt, Annia	56	F				Germany					
		Sordoff, Focken	10	M				Germany					
		Catherine	9	F				Germany					
13	13	Zemseredt, Charles	50	M		Farmer	100	Germany					
14	14	Toeschler, Barthelena	57	M		Shoe Maker	50	Switz.					
		Barbara	46	F				Switz.			U		
		Elizabeth	15	F				Switz.					
		Hannah	9	F				Switz.					
		Abraham	7	M				Switz.					
15	15	Sordoff, Menkin	40	M		Farmer	300	Germany			U		
		Johanah	52	F				Germany					
		Menkin	10	M				Germany					
16	16	Hine, John	20	M		Laborer		Germany		M		U	
		Mary E.	17	F				Germany		M			





Business

Anthropologist says Quihi's history significant

By William Hoover

ANVIL HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Opponents of Vulcan Materials' plans to build the seven-mile-long Southwest Gulf Railroad are asking the Surface Transportation Board not to issue a permit to the railroad, arguing the destruction of the area's cultural resources outweigh any benefit which could come from the private company's mining of limestone to sell for export to Houston.

Those concerned with the operation of a quarry over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone in Medina County have submitted arguments against the project. The public comment period to provide information for the environmental impact analysis ended on Jan. 10.

The prospect of a railroad bisecting historic Quihi and the local flood plain elicited an outpouring of concern from local landowners and the Medina County Environmental Action Association.

"We had a good turnout of responses sent in to the STB," said MCEAA representative Alyne Fitzgerald. The MCEAA treasurer said she hopes the STB's Section of Environmental Analysis takes heed of comments made by archeologist Tom Hester, Ph.D.

Hester, a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin and a member of the Medina County Historical Commission, was critical of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement made available to the public in November 2004.

Hester and 30 other area landowners decried the quality of the Draft EIS during a Dec. 2 public hearing at the Medina County Fair Hall. Hester and others were also concerned about the apparent lack of attention to the historical impacts of the SGR. Vulcan selected URS Engineering to write the Draft EIS, but Hester said it was found to be lacking in almost all aspects by the Texas Historical Commission and others who have read it.

One of Hester's primary arguments is that the study is failing to give adequate weight to the historical importance of

the area, and the permanent damage construction of a railroad would cause.

Hester argued the area's historical importance lies in part in the fact it is largely unexplored by archeologists. The land has been held in family farms and kept from private view and, therefore, still contains an untold wealth of information about the settlement of Texas by Spanish explorers and European immigrants.

Fitzgerald thought Hester's comments were compelling enough to make the STB take a second look at issuing a permit for the construction of the railroad.

In his statement to the STB, Hester addressed the cultural resources related to the prehistory and early history of the Quihi area. The archeologist noted that what seem to be minor oversights now could turn out to be critical mistakes in terms of preserving unique cultural resources which tell the story of the development of the area.

Hester warned the STB not to discount the importance of the history of Quihi just because it has not yet been fully documented. He noted the work completed in the area by the Southern Texas Archaeological Association. The STAA discovered several heretofore unknown historical sites on land owned by the late Buddy Mangold and on the Wiemers Ranch, in six days of exploration. One of the sites is located adjacent to an active spring and bog, which is what the anthropologist said probably drew native peoples to camp at the site some 10,500 years ago. Hester urged the STB to require further studies before compiling a final assessment. The study so far has lacked an adequate review of American Indian peoples who lived in the area up to 15,000 years ago, according to Hester.

"This topic will be of serious concern among local American Indian organizations and their leaders," he wrote. "At the Dec. 2 meeting, Ray Hernandez of the Tap Pilam group in San Antonio spoke eloquently about this problem, and he consulted extensively with congressional staffers who were there."

Hernandez is well known across southern Texas as a spokesman for American Indians and his impact has been felt on many construction projects which threatened sites of historical importance to native peoples.

"A great deal of data are to be found in the literature, both mid-19th century and Spanish Colonial, on these (American Indian) groups," Hester wrote. "After a rail bed has been laid, ethnohistorically sensitive areas will already be gone."

Hester noted a published study performed by Dr. Maria F. Wade on the American Indians of the Edwards Plateau and their history of interaction with early Spanish explorers. The area of focus was immediately west of Quihi. To make her discovery, Wade went through Spanish archives and found data on the native peoples which had never been found or fully understood before. Hester applauded URS consultant Dr. Cassidy's conclusion that the Quihi area constitutes a unique historical context and his recommendation that all proposed SGR rail routes in the Quihi area be abandoned and a new effort made to use the old Dunlay to Medina Dam route.

In his letter, Hester argues the area's historic landscape will be irreparably damaged if a railroad is built through Quihi. "The historic context is what is in peril in the plans of SGR," he wrote. "Within the landscape, there can be certain elements that pull together a significant moment in the development of a region. At Quihi, there is an archeological landscape about which we know very little."

Hester notes STAA surveys performed in July 2004 and shovel test excavations in 2005 suggest there are a lot of historical sites within and around the proposed SGR rail routes. STAA surveys revealed new sites on the Wiemers Ranch and a series of interesting sites were documented along Elm Creek.

He was also critical of plans to simply relocate historic homes away from the land on which they were built in a potential National Register of Historic Places District. "That saves the house but destroys the historic context," he wrote. "The constellation of early stone homes and buildings around

Quihi are without parallel in this part of Texas. Not even in Castroville is such a unique settlement preserved—and Castroville received First Lady Laura Bush's recognition in the Preserve America federal program."

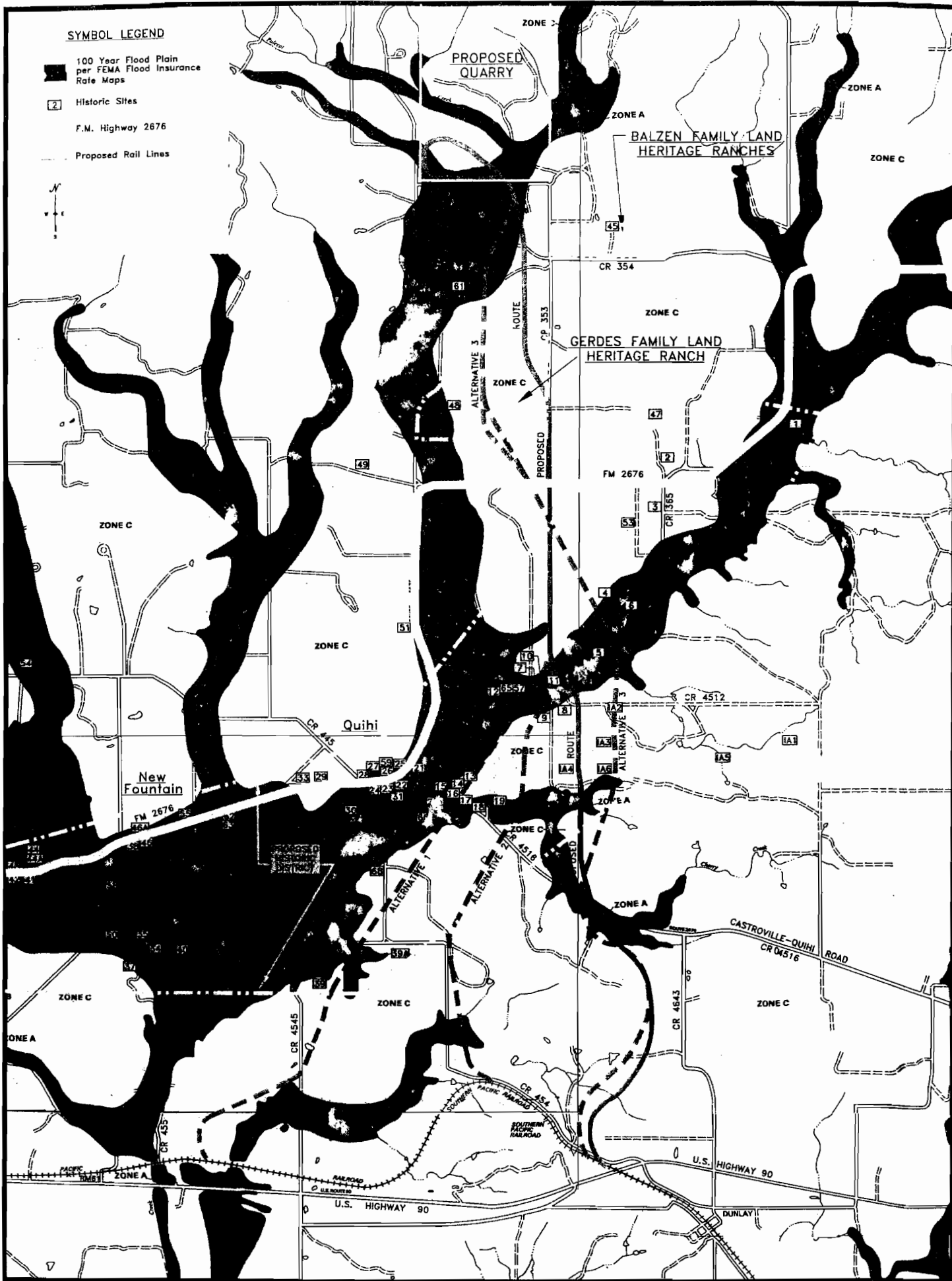
Quihi is not unique simply because of its old buildings, according to Hester. "Quihi had a key role in the settlement and development of south central Texas, and is a prominent part of chronicles of early commerce (the Chihuahua road) and early military explorations," he said. Indeed, several area landowners have ranches registered with the Texas Land Heritage Program which are over 150 years old.

"There is no rationale for the serious disturbance, if not destruction, of the Quihi historical landscape by building new, short railroads for the profit of private, non-local corporations," wrote the anthropologist. "In essence," said Hester, "The STB is being asked to provide a permit so that a rail line can be built through the Quihi historical landscape... that will significantly degrade the long-term viability of an unequalled cultural and historic resource."

Hester concluded his letter by asking the STB to give more weight to the impact of the loss of the area's still undocumented cultural and historical record. "I have never seen such a culturally significant landscape as the one which incorporates the Quihi area," he wrote.

"The STB staff and (three) commissioners in Washington must understand that the destruction of cultural resources is a nationwide concern and a nationwide disaster."

Noting STB was charged with permitting railroads across America, Hester asked how the national interest was served by destroying the cultural landscape of the Quihi area. "Why must the destruction of such a landscape be of such 'national interest' that the Quihi area must be the next and totally unnecessary victim? This is not a narrow 'tree-hugger-environmentalist-preservationist' view. It is the reality based on the science and history that is already known, and which is so clearly evident, from observing the Quihi landscape."

MEDINA COUNTY, Texas

Historic Sites of Quihi and New Fountain

THE HISTORICAL TREASURES OF QUIHI AND NEW FOUNTAIN

Submitted by Nanette Portenier,
Secretary of the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society

There is a renewed interest in restoring the old homes and preserving the cultural landscape of historic Quihi, one of Henri Castro's four colonies. The sense of the community as it existed in mid-1800's is very much evident in the area. The architecture, outbuildings, locations and their relationships with surrounding sites, tell the story of life on the frontier in the new Republic of Texas after Texas won its freedom from Mexico in 1836. Old wells, fences, barns, and other outbuildings and their functions, provide information adding to the body of knowledge depicting life in the frontier community. Oral history from the descendants still living in the area is also an important part of the documentation.

The historic sites and cultural landscape of the communities Quihi and New Fountain are the focus of an intensive study for the preservation of these local historic treasures. In 2003, the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society began mapping, photographing, and documenting these sites for the Texas Historical Commission. Q&NFHS has submitted over 85 sites thus far.

(Accompanied by 4 photographs of the Ben Ivy restoration, copies to follow)



Several homes in the area have been restored or rebuilt in the recent past. The latest home being restored is the old George Heyen home, circa 1870. This limestone cottage is located near the Quihi Creek, at the intersection of CR 450 and CR 365 at Quihi, and is now owned by Ben and Nancy Ivy.

Below: Members of the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society inspect and admire the progress of the restoration.





THE WELL AND OUTBUILDINGS: AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Stories handed down from the original settlers relate that the well at the George Heyen place never went dry, even in times of severe drought. Settlers from a wide area brought wagons with empty barrels to fill them here. The Iveys say that the water from this well is still pure, good and plentiful, and supplies their home and livestock.

Below: Quihi/New Fountain Historical Society members (l-r) Archie Gerdes, Nanette Portenier (& Brentlee), Tom Walpole, Linda Gerdes, Necey Schulte, Velda Jarrell, Joyce Landrum, Lester Landrum, and Cynthia Ivey





On February 8, 2006, ***Preservation Texas***, an Austin-based organization whose mission is to protect the historic resources of Texas, announced the 2006 Texas Most Endangered List of historic places. The Village of Quihi was nominated and chosen to be listed. In Austin to attend the ceremony were members of the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society: (l-r) Lynn Haby, Scott Conrad, Necey Schulte, Jacque Conrad, Archie Gerdes, Linda Gerdes, Judy Dittmar, Mary Walpole, Lester Landrum, Tom Walpole, Dr. Bob Fitzgerald, and Alyne Fitzgerald.